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SUBJECT: UNGA: GREECE WILL FOLLOW EU LINE ON ANTI-ISRAEL
RESOLUTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 159386

1. (SBU) DepPolCouns delivered reftel points on anti-Israel UNGA resolutions to Ambassador Alexandros Rallis, Deputy Head of the MFA D1 Directorate for International Organizations, and to Giorgos Ayfantis, Deputy Head of the MFA A6 Directorate for Arab and Middle East Issues. DepPolCons stressed the importance of a Greek "no" vote on the resolutions or, at least, an abstention or absence from the voting, as Greece had done previously.

2. (SBU) Rallis said he informed FM Bakoyannis' office regarding the U.S. position and expected Greece to follow the EU consensus position. Rallis believed that, at a minimum, this would mean an abstention or absence from the voting, though he was unable to provide precise details on Greece's or the EU's intentions.

3. (SBU) Ayfantis further explained that if no common EU position took shape, Greece would evaluate the issue and make its decision on how to vote. He said the U.S. demarche would be "decisive" in helping Greece formulate its position, but he too could not provide a definitive answer regarding Greece's intentions. Ayfantis also claimed that Greece's ambassador to the UN had considerable discretion on such matters. Because events often developed quickly and Athens was usually already closed for business when votes took place in NYC, the ambassador often had to make quick decisions on votes without instructions from the capital.
COUNTRYMAN